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that *S. papillosum* holds the place of first importance. It is only in very wet places and under exceptionally favorable conditions that the other three sphagnums acquire the soft, bushy habit.

How to prepare sphagnum samples for assay purposes—First of all, in collecting select a characteristic specimen: one that really is a fair sample of the area of moss that it is intended to represent. Try to include only one kind of sphagnum in each sample—don't get a mixture. Pull up a good, generous double-handful, pick out any "weeds," squeeze out the water, and wrap it up in a piece of newspaper. Tag the package with a number, so that you will know just where it came from. Collect plenty of samples from different areas, and make each one good and big—it will be as light as a feather when dry, parcel post rates are low, and large samples are easier to judge than small ones. When you get it home, loosen each bunch up with your fingers and spread it out in the air to dry. When nearly or quite dry, separate each sample into two lots and ship one of these to headquarters for examination, keeping the other (numbered in duplicate) for reference. For mailing, samples can be wrapped in newspaper or wrapping paper.

Send for a sample of surgical moss, if you are in any doubt as to what to look for. Specimens for examination can be sent to George E. Nichols, Botanical Adviser on Sphagnum, Yale University, New Haven, Conn.

POROTRICHUM NOT THAMNOBRYUM

ELIZABETH G. BRITTON

In the May BRYOLOGIST, Professor Chamberlain records the changes proposed by Dr. Nieuwland[1] for the genus *Thamnium* Br. & Sch.

The truth of the matter is that there is no need for another generic name, as *Porotrichum* (Brid.) Mitt. is quite sufficient for both groups of species. It is a refinement of *hair-splitting* to attempt to separate so large and characteristic a genus, which may be recognized by macroscopic characters, on microscopic differences in the markings of the teeth, *which do not hold constant!* Anyone who has studied the key and illustrations given by *Brotherus*[2] and then turned to the genus *Porotrichum* and found that the key breaks down in various ways, will realize that it is a most troublesome and needless separation of a perfectly natural group of species, which furthermore are most generally found sterile. Braithwaite[3] says: "This large genus of 175 species appears to connect the *Hypnaceæ* with *Neckeraceæ*, having the peristome of the former, but the habit and aerolation of the latter The newer name *Thamnium* cannot be maintained; it only differs from *Porotrichum* by the cernuous capsule and presence of cilia in the endostome, and besides had already been used for two genera of lichens and one of *Ericaceae*." The synonymy is as follows:

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[1] J. A. Nieuwland. Critical Notes on New and Old Genera of Plants—X. Am. Midl. Nat. **3**: 50–51. 1917.

[2] Teeth of the outer peristome striate. 51. *Thamnium*.
Teeth of the outer peristome papillose or striate only below. 47. *Porotrichum*.
Engler & Prantl. Pfl. fam. fasc. 226, p. 852, 859. 1906, figs. 629–633.

[3] British Moss-flora **3**: 197. 1903.

Porotrichum (Brid.) Mitt. J. L. Soc. **12:** 20, 458. 1869.
Climacium (*Porotrichum*) Brid. Bryol. Univ. **2:** 275. 1827.
Thamnium Br. & Sch. Bryol. Eu. fasc. **49:** 51. 1852. Not Klotzsch, 1838.
Thamnobryum Nieuw.

NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN.

SULLIVANT MOSS SOCIETY NOTES

The following changes are supplementary to the address list of the Society, which appeared in the January, 1918, issue of THE BRYOLOGIST:

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. T. J. Fitzpatrick	Bethany, Nebr.
Miss Eva M. Fling	220 Prospect St., Morgantown, W. Va.
Mr. Walter E. Flowers	Locke, Wash.
Mrs. J. M. Fox	"Wakefield," Logan, Philadelphia, Pa.
Lektor Dr. Hj. Möller	Stocksund, Sweden

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mr. E. R. Grose	Sago, W. Va.
Miss Aravilla Taylor	5744 Kenwood Ave., Chicago, Ill.

EXCHANGE DEPARTMENT

Offerings—*To members only.* Return postage should accompany the request. It is better to send a *stamp*, rather than a stamped envelope, which might not be of the right size for the specimen.

Rev. H. Dupret, Seminary of Philosophy, Montreal, Canada.—*Drepanocladus aduncus* var. *polycarpum* and var. *intermedius* B. & S. [*Hypnum aduncum* var. *polycarpum* (Bland.) Bry. Eur., and var. *intermedium* W. P. Schimp.] Collected by Rev. Dupret, in Quebec.

The rather sudden termination of hostilities possibly relieves to a considerable extent the immediate urgency of the call of the Red Cross for information regarding supplies of surgical sphagnum, but the communication printed on pages 81–83, this issue, contains so much of interest and value to bryologists that we have proceeded with its publication.—EDITOR.